

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A composting apparatus comprising:  
2                   a housing;  
3                   a plurality of composting drawers in the housing, wherein the plurality of  
4 composting drawers are in a stacked relationship when in the housing, and wherein each  
5 drawer includes a bottom region having a plurality of apertures; and  
6                   a plurality of receiving structures in the housing, the receiving structures being  
7 respectively disposed under the plurality of composting drawers to receive composted  
8 material from the plurality of composting drawers.

1                   2.       The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of  
2 breaker devices, each of the breaker devices being adapted to agitate composted material at  
3 the bottom region of a composting drawer within the plurality of drawers.

1                   3.       The composting apparatus of claim 1 where the plurality of drawers  
2 includes a first set of drawers and a second set of drawers, wherein the first set of drawers  
3 and the second set of drawers open in opposite directions.

1                   4.       The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of  
2 drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a wall of the  
3 housing.

1                   5.       The composting apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of  
2 air vents in the housing, and a climate control system adapted to control the climate within  
3 the housing.

1                   6.       The composting apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of  
2 drawers includes a spacer element that spaces a rear wall of the drawer from a portion of the  
3 housing and also extends in a downward direction so that when the drawer is pulled out, the  
4 spacer element pulls a receiving structure underneath the drawer.

1                   7.       A composting system comprising:  
2                   a plurality of the composting apparatuses of claim 1, wherein the  
3 composting apparatuses are stacked.

1                   8.     A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:  
2                   placing compostable material and composting organisms into each of a  
3 plurality of drawers, wherein the drawers in the plurality of drawers are in a stacked  
4 relationship;  
5                   composting the compostable material within the plurality of drawers to form  
6 composted material within each of the plurality of drawers;  
7                   agitating the composted material in the plurality of drawers; and  
8                   passing the agitated composted material through the plurality of apertures at  
9 the bottom region of each drawer within the plurality of drawers.

1                   9.     The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
2                   receiving the composted material in receiving structures under each of the  
3 drawers; and  
4                   removing the composted material from the receiving structures under each of  
5 the drawers.

1                   10.    The method of claim 8 wherein agitating the composted material in the  
2 plurality of drawers comprises moving each of a plurality of breaker devices respectively  
3 coupled to the drawers back and forth, wherein each breaker device includes a grid that is  
4 disposed over a bottom region of the drawer in which the grid is present.

1                   11.    A composting apparatus comprising:     <  
2                   a)     a composting container adapted to contain a composted material, the  
3 composting container having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner  
4 region for receiving compostable material and composting organisms, wherein the bottom  
5 region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through; and  
6                   b)     a breaker device comprising a grid above the bottom region of the  
7 composting container, wherein the breaker device is adapted to agitate composted material at  
8 the bottom region of the composting container so that the composted material passes through  
9 the plurality of apertures in the bottom region of the composting container.

1                   12.    The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the breaker device  
2 includes a handle capable of being gripped by a person and wherein the grid is coupled to the  
3 handle.

1                   13.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the breaker device  
2 includes a U-shaped handle capable of being gripped by a person and a grid that is coupled to  
3 the handle via ends of the U-shaped handle, wherein the handle passes through apertures in at  
4 least one of the side regions of the container.

1                   14.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the composting  
2 container is a drawer in a plurality of drawers in the apparatus.

1                   15.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 further including a compostable  
2 material disposed within the container.

1                   16.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 further comprising worms in the  
2 container.

1                   17.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the container includes a  
2 finger grip that allows a user to pull the container with the user's fingers.

1                   18.     The composting apparatus of claim 11 wherein the composting  
2 container is made of rigid plastic.

1                   19.     A method of using a composting apparatus comprising:  
2 placing a compostable material and composting organisms into a container,  
3 the container having a plurality of side regions and a bottom region defining an inner region  
4 for receiving the compostable material and the composting organisms, wherein the bottom  
5 region has a plurality of apertures through which composted material can pass through;  
6 composting the compostable material to form composted material;  
7 manually agitating the composted material; and  
8 passing the composted material through the plurality of apertures at the bottom  
9 region of the container.

1                   20.     The method of claim 19 further comprising, after passing:  
2 receiving the composted material on a receiving structure that is positioned  
3 underneath the container.

1           21.     A composting method comprising:  
 2           a) obtaining a transfer container and compostable material within the transfer  
 3 container;  
 4           b) tilting the transfer container;  
 5           c) vibrating the transfer container; and  
 6           d) dispensing the compostable material while vibrating the transfer container.

1           22.     The method of claim 21 wherein d) comprises:  
 2           dispensing the compostable material in a drawer within a plurality of stacked  
 3 drawers in a composting apparatus.

1           23.     The method of claim 21 wherein transfer container includes a passage  
 2 covered by a flap, wherein the dispensed compostable material passes through the passage.

1           24.     The method of claim 21 further comprises, prior to a)  
 2 shredding organic waste to form the compostable material; and  
 3 loading the compostable material into the transferable container.

1           25.     A composting system comprising:  
 2 a shipping container; and  
 3 a composting apparatus inside of the shipping container.

1           26.     The composting system of claim 25 further comprising:  
 2 a shredder inside of the shipping container.

1           27.     The composting system of claim 25 wherein the shipping container has  
 2 a length of from about 20 to about 40 feet long.

1           28.     The composting system of claim 25 wherein the shipping container  
 2 comprises insulation and wherein the composting system further comprises:  
 3 a climate control system to control the climate inside of the shipping  
 4 container.

1           29.     The composting system of claim 25 wherein the composting apparatus  
 2 includes a plurality of stacked drawers.

1                    30.    The composting system of claim 25 wherein the composting apparatus  
2    is a vermicomposting apparatus.